

**AI4Agri**

**Developing green and digital skills towards AI use in agriculture**

Erasmus+

KA220-VET - Cooperation partnerships in vocational education and training

**WP2: Connecting AI with Agricultural sector: current status and needs**

**assessment**

**A.2.3: Reflection Roundtables between agriculture workers and AI experts**

Developed by

YET

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# Introduction

**Partner organisation**: YET & ThinkOnception

**Date**: Part 1: 19-06-2024, Part 2 21-06-2024

**Location**: online

**Number of participants**: 9

**Profile of the participants**: Agronomists, researchers, Coop Managers, farmers, ICT experts, Venture capitalists

# Conclusion

The Roundtable and survey analysis provided a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to AI adoption in Greek agriculture. The insights gathered highlight several key aspects:

The roundtable discussions and survey results emphasized the critical need for increased awareness and understanding of AI applications in agriculture. While some innovative examples and initiatives exist, the overall familiarity and use of AI among Greek agricultural workers and potential entrepreneurs remain low. This gap in knowledge and application underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions.

## AI Use in Agriculture: Opportunities and Risks

The participants recognized the significant potential of AI to transform agricultural practices, offering opportunities to improve efficiency, productivity, and environmental sustainability. Successful case studies from participants demonstrate the tangible benefits of integrating AI and IoT in agriculture. However, risks such as data privacy concerns, potential biases in AI applications, and high costs associated with AI adoption were also highlighted. The survey corroborates these concerns, with a substantial portion of respondents citing the complexity and cost of AI technologies as major barriers.

## Current Training and Policy Needs

There is a clear and pressing need for customized training programs that focus on practical, ROI-focused applications of AI in agriculture. The roundtable and survey findings revealed a significant skill gap among agricultural workers and entrepreneurs, emphasizing the need for accessible and tailored educational resources. Moreover, participants called for supportive policies that facilitate technological innovation and provide financial incentives for farmers to invest in AI. The survey indicated that a large majority of respondents were unaware of existing government initiatives promoting digitalization and AI in agriculture, pointing to a need for better communication and outreach.

## Comments on the Survey Analysis Results

The survey results provided a valuable data-driven foundation for the discussions. Key findings included low familiarity with AI among respondents, the significant barriers posed by costs and technical complexity, and the lack of awareness about government support programs. These insights aligned closely with the experiences and observations shared by Roundtable participants, reinforcing the validity of the survey data and highlighting areas for targeted intervention.

## Further Demands Expressed

Participants expressed a demand for more local initiatives and stronger support from the Greek government and other stakeholders. They highlighted the importance of seeking funding and IT opportunities from Europe and private investors to drive AI adoption in agriculture. There was also a call for better infrastructure, particularly in terms of internet connectivity, to enable farmers to leverage digital technologies effectively.

# Summary

## Outcomes and results from the completion of Activity A.2.3

The Roundtable and survey provided several key takeaways:

* **Awareness and Education**: Increasing awareness and providing education on AI applications in agriculture are paramount. Practical, hands-on training programs that demonstrate clear benefits and ROI are essential.
* **Infrastructure and Accessibility**: Improving infrastructure, especially internet connectivity, is crucial for enabling the adoption of AI technologies.
* **Supportive Policies**: There is a need for policies that support technological innovation, provide financial incentives, and facilitate access to funding and technical assistance.
* **Motivation and Inspiration**: Targeted efforts to motivate and inspire farmers, especially younger generations, can significantly boost AI adoption.